

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended): A ~~[[bulk]]~~ sintered soft magnetic element, comprising: Fe-based sintered alloy soft magnetic material of metallic glass, ~~comprising: a Fe-based metallic glass alloy~~ the sintered soft magnetic element being prepared by sintering, in a temperature range of 573 K to the crystallization temperature ( $T_x$ ), spherical particles of Fe-based metallic glass alloy prepared by an atomizing process, the spherical particles having a particle size of 30 to 125  $\mu\text{m}$ ; a composition consisting of, by atomic %, 0.5 to 10 % of Ga, 7 to 15 % of P, 3 to 7 % of C, 3 to 7 % of B and 1 to 7 % of Si, with the remainder being Fe~~[[;]]~~, the Fe-based metallic glass alloy having a crystallization temperature ( $T_x$ ) of 770 to 800 K~~[[;]]~~ and a liquidus temperature ( $T_l$ ) of 1220 to 1300 K,

wherein the Fe-based sintered alloy soft magnetic material has metallic glass phase of high-density with a relative density of 99.0 % or more, a magnetic permeability of 3900 ( $\mu_{\text{max}}$ ) or more, a coercive force ( $H_c$ ) of 19 (A/m) or less and a specific resistance of 1.6  $\mu\Omega\text{m}$  or more in an as-sintered state,

wherein the Fe-based sintered alloy soft magnetic material has a temperature interval of a supercooled liquid region ( $\Delta T_x$ ) of 25 K or more, as expressed by a formula:  $\Delta T_x = T_x - T_g$ , wherein  $T_x$  is a crystallization temperature, and  $T_g$  is a glass transition temperature; and a reduced glass transition temperature of 0.59 or more, as expressed by a formula:  $T_g/T_l$ , wherein  $T_g$  is a glass transition temperature, and  $T_l$  is a liquidus temperature.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently amended): A sintered soft magnetic element~~bulk Fe-based sintered alloy soft magnetic material of metallic glass, prepared by subjecting the bulk Fe-based sintered alloy soft magnetic material~~ as defined in claim 1 ~~to a heat treatment~~ sintering is performed in a temperature range of 573 to 723 K, ~~which~~ wherein the Fe-based sintered alloy soft magnetic material has a magnetic permeability of 7000 ( $\mu$  max) or more and a coercive force ( $H_c$ ) of 12 (A/m) or less.

4. (Withdrawn): A method of producing Fe-based sintered alloy soft magnetic material, comprising:

preparing molten alloy having a composition consisting of, by atomic %, 0.5 to 10 % of Ga, 7 to 15 % of P, 3 to 7 % of C, 3 to 7 % of B and 1 to 7 % of Si, with the remainder being Fe;

dropping or ejecting said molten alloy from a nozzle; and

spraying high-speed gas to droplets of said molten alloy to rapidly solidify said droplets to obtain a Fe-based metallic glass alloy particle having an amorphous phase and a maximum particle size of 30 to 125  $\mu$ m, thereby obtaining a plurality of spherical particles of Fe-based metallic glass alloy; and

sintering said spherical particles by a spark plasma sintering process under the conditions that: a heating rate is set at 40 K/min or more; a sintering temperature (T) is set at 573 K or more

and within a temperature range satisfying a relationship of  $T \leq T_x$ , wherein  $T_x$  is a crystallization temperature; and a sintering pressure is set at 200 MPa or more.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Withdrawn): A method of producing bulk Fe-based sintered alloy soft magnetic material of metallic glass as defined in claim 4, the method further comprising:

subjecting said Fe-based sintered alloy soft magnetic material to a heat treatment in a temperature range of 573 to 723 K.

7. (New): A sintered soft magnetic element, comprising: sintered metallic glass particles of a composition consisting of, by atomic %, 0.5 to 10 % of Ga, 7 to 15 % of P, 3 to 7 % of C, 3 to 7 % of B and 1 to 7 % of Si, with the remainder being Fe, said metallic glass particles having maximum particle size of 30 to 125  $\mu\text{m}$ ,

wherein the Fe-based alloy soft magnetic material has metallic glass phase of high-density with a relative density of 99.0 % or more, a magnetic permeability of 3900 ( $\mu_{\text{max}}$ ) or more, a coercive force ( $H_c$ ) of 19 (A/m) or less and a specific resistance of 1.6  $\mu\Omega\text{m}$  or more in an as-sintered state,

wherein the Fe-based alloy soft magnetic material has a temperature interval of a supercooled liquid region ( $\Delta T_x$ ) of 25 K or more, as expressed by a formula:  $\Delta T_x = T_x - T_g$ , wherein  $T_x$  is a crystallization temperature, and  $T_g$  is a glass transition temperature; and a

reduced glass transition temperature of 0.59 or more, as expressed by a formula:  $T_g/T_l$ , wherein  $T_g$  is a glass transition temperature, and  $T_l$  is a liquidus temperature.

8. (New): A sintered soft magnetic element as defined in claim 1, wherein the Fe-based sintered alloy soft magnetic material has a magnetic permeability of 7000 ( $\mu$  max) or more and a coercive force ( $H_c$ ) of 12 (A/m) or less.